

Alexandria Gazette

VOL XC

ALEXANDRIA, VA. TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 19 1889

NO. 285.

MEDICINAL.

Dr. BULL'S facilitates *Teething* and *regulates the Bowels*. At all druggists. Price 25 cts.

25¢ A BOTTLE
SALVATION OIL
KILLS PAIN

BULL'S Cures Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, Incipient-**COUGH** Sumpion, and relieves Consumptive Persons. 25 cents. **SYRUP**

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PURCHASERS FOR GOOD, CHEAP HOMES
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Real Estate Bought, Sold and Exchanged.
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AND ALL KINDS OF WOOD

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No charge for delivery in city. jan28

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MANUFACTURER OF

FERTILIZERS,

And Extensive Dealer in

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND

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STRAW, AND FODDER CUTTER

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COLAND CHILLED PLOWS, GRAIN

AND FERTILIZING DRILLS,

FARM WAGONS, &c.

jan17 tf

COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

W. A. SMOOT & CO., G. S. FRENCHE

W. A. SMOOT & CO.,

Coal, Salt and Plaster,

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Office—Smoot's Wharf.

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CHARLES KING & SON,

WHOLESALE GROCERS,

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(Opposite Hill's Cracker Factory)

SOLE AGENTS FOR SATISFACTION TO

BACCO AND HAZARD POWDER. oct26

W. A. JOHNSON & CO.,

WHOLESALE GROCERS,

GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

And Dealers in

ALL KINDS OF LIQUORS.

Have on hand GIBSON'S XX, XXX, XXXX,

and PURE OLD RYE, OLD WHISKY, and

McCORMACK'S PURE RYE WHISKY, to which

they invite the attention of the trade.

Orders from the country for merchandise shall

receive prompt attention.

Consignments of Flour, Grain and Country Pro-

duce solicited, for which they guarantee the high-

est market prices and prompt returns.

Northeast corner of Cameron and Royal streets

Alexandria, Va. sep14

Alexandria Gazette

PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY

EDGAR SNOWDEN,

Gazette Building, 310 and 312 Prince st.

Daily one year.....\$5 00

Six months.....2 50

Tri-Weekly one year.....4 00

Six months.....2 00

Three months.....1 00

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advertise other than their legitimate business in the

space contracted for.

All transient advertisements must be paid for in ad-

vance.

Resolutions in case of death, tributes of respect,

resolutions adopted by societies or persons, unless of

public concern, will only be printed in this paper as

advertisements.

The Gazette office is connected with the Telephone

Exchange. Advertisements, orders for the paper,

news, or any information or business can be sent by

telephone.

All communications should be addressed to "GAZETTE,"

Alexandria, Va.

[Entered at the Postoffice, Alexandria, Virginia, as

second-class matter.]

Clew to an Old Time Mystery.

Almost twenty years have passed since

Benjamin Nathan was murdered at his resi-

dence in New York. Almost as revolting

as the murder itself came the shocking sug-

gestion that one of his own flesh and blood

had perpetrated the foul deed.

The Nathan family lived in a handsome

brown stone house on Twenty-third street,

next to the corner of Fifth avenue. The

extension to the parlor was used for a sleep-

ing room, while in the back parlor adjoining

it stood the safe in which were kept not only

the family silver and jewels, but also a large

sum of money and many valuable securities.

It was in the month of July, 1870, that the

murder was committed. The family were

then at Long Branch, but old Mr. Nathan

had returned to New York to take part in

some Jewish ceremonies which required his

presence. He retired at his customary hour

to his bed in the extension, and early the

next morning his body was found lying prone

beside the safe. He had been murdered

during the night, for the bed was quite

cold, and the carpet was stained with blood

which flowed from a ghastly wound in his

head. Beside him lay an iron "hog," an in-

strument used by carpenters, heavy in the

middle and tapering off to a sort of prong

at either end. It was covered with blood,

and had been used to crush the old gen-

tleman's skull.

The police were notified and when the

news spread through the city the street was

besieged by a crowd of sight-seekers. Super-

intendent of Police Jordan made a careful

inspection of the body and its surroundings,

and subjected each of the domestic to a rigid

cross-examination as to his or her where-

abouts on the night of the murder. Wash-

ington Nathan, the son of the murdered

gentleman, testified that he had not been at

home at all that night, and then admitted

that he had been at a disreputable house.

Young Nathan was at this time one of the

best known young men about town, and

was enjoying life with all the zest of youth.

The fact that he had spent the night in

question, as stated, excited a strong prej-

udice against him. Others, however, argued

that his being there at that time was merely

an accident, and if he had been privy to

his father's murder and aware of the fact

that he was liable to be called upon to

prove an alibi he would have taken particu-

lar pains to be found in some place of un-

questioned respectability. Nevertheless,

the story spread, and in spite of all that

could be done by Mrs. Nathan and the other

members of the family who knew the

man to be innocent, Wash Nathan was by

many believed to be his father's murderer.

Supt. Jordan took the case in hand,

but although many streets were made and

luncheoners followed up, the affair

remained a complete mystery. Indeed,

the anxiety and trouble incident to this

murder were the cause of Superintendent

Jordan's death, in October of that year.

"It was perhaps a fortnight after the

murder," says Mr. A. Hummel, of the well

known law firm of Howe & Hummel, "that

Mr. Jordan handed me a letter which he

had received from a convict named George

Ellis, who was then in Sing Sing and who

declared that if he could be brought to the

city he would establish the identity of the

Nathan murderer. Ellis was brought to the

city and lodged in the Sixth precinct sta-

tion. He told us that if we would show him

the carpenter's dog with which the murder

was committed he thought he could identify

the criminal. Jordan then procured about

twenty five iron dogs of all shapes and sizes.

These he smeared with blood and threw

them in the table where the real instrument

lay. Ellis was brought into the room and

without an instant's hesitation picked out

the one with which Mr. Nathan had been

killed. He said that some time before his

commitment to Sing Sing he and a bargin-

named George Forrester had planned to rob

the Nathan mansion. Forrester was a part

of the scheme, but he had intended to com-

mit the crime during the absence of the fam-

ily, and it was a mere accident, he said,

which led his pal to select a night on which

the old gentleman happened to be at home.

His theory was that Forrester, finding himself

surprised at his work by Mr. Nathan and fear-

ing that he would give the alarm, had killed

him with one vigorous blow of the dog. He

knew the dog, he said, because it was one

with which they had worked before. For-

rester was nowhere to be found, but the au-

thorities never relaxed the vigilance of their

search, and at last—it was sometime in 1872

—he was hunted down in a remote part of

Texas and brought back to New York.

"Now, on the morning succeeding the night

of the Nathan murder a young Catholic

servant girl, while on her way to early mass,

saw two men come hurriedly down the steps

of the Nathan mansion and disappear. When

the news of the murder were made known

she communicated this circumstance to

Superintendent Jordan. I was standing

directly by Forrester in the court room

when she was brought in and asked if he

were the man that she had seen running

down the steps of the Nathan house. I have

never seen greater agony depicted on a hu-

man face than was shown in his as he

subjected himself to her searching gaze. The

perspiration stood out on his forehead in

great beads and his hand clasped the back

of a chair before him with a force that

almost shattered the frail bars. The

girl looked at him for fully ten min-

utes and then shook her head in a

hesitating way, and said that although she

believed him to be the man, still, as two years

had elapsed since she saw him, she could not

be positive. As soon as this order was over

Forrester said to me and confessed that he

was in Joliet, Ill. He begged me to send him

back there, and so, at his instigation, I

notified the authorities that prison and he

was sent to Illinois. It was the first time

in all my criminal experience that I had

ever seen a man go with

absolute contentment to fill a fifteen years' sen-

ence in State prison.

"I have never heard of either him or Ellis since

that time. Washington Nathan is still alive,

though he has never been quite the same man

that he was before his father's death. The Nathan

house remained unoccupied for many years after

the tragedy, and was finally torn down to make

way for the great express building which now oc-

cupies its site. In regard to Forrester I cannot

speaking fully without violating professional honor,

for the man was a client of my office, but I can

say this, that from what I learned from him

Washington Nathan had no more to do with the

killing of his father than I."

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THE BEST SALVE IN THE WORLD for Cuts, Bruises

Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Piles, Burns, Scalds,

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best female nurses and physicians in the United

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never-failing success by millions of mothers for

their children. During the process of teething